

REMARKS

The "Amendment to the Claims" section of the amendment filed on December 5, 2003 is being resubmitted concurrently herewith and includes a statement that Claims 1-171 have been cancelled. Acceptance of the resubmitted section of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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